

National Intelligence Council

14 December 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: [REDACTED]
National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT: El Salvador Certification

1. On 13 December I organized an Intelligence Community briefing on El Salvador at the request of Assistant Secretaries of State Bernard Aronson and Janet Mullins. I was joined by Assistant NIO [REDACTED] (ALA/MCD), [REDACTED] (Defense Intelligence Officer for Latin America), [REDACTED] (INR.) All of us, except [REDACTED] made presentations on specific issues relating to presidential certification on El Salvador with respect to US military assistance. [REDACTED]

2. Deputy Assistant Secretary Joseph Sullivan chaired for Aronson. He was joined during the first portion of the session by State Department attorneys and Central America desk officers. A restricted meeting [REDACTED] followed. It was limited to the Intelligence Community briefers and Sullivan and Roberta Jacobson (Aronson's executive assistant.) [REDACTED]

3. H.R. 5114--which reduced military assistance to El Salvador by one half--requires that the President "determine and report in writing to Congress" in early January and again in early July 1991 on two sets of issues. [REDACTED]

4. With respect to the FMLN, the legislation provides that sequestered military assistance may be reinstated if the guerrillas are receiving "significant shipments of lethal military assistance from outside;" are "assassinating or abducting civilian noncombatants;" or "refusing to negotiate a

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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5. With respect to the behavior of the Salvadoran government and military, the legislation provides in particular, that no military assistance may be provided if: 1) the government "has failed to conduct a thorough and professional investigation" of the Jesuit murders, or; 2) the military "are assassinating or abducting civilian noncombatants." [REDACTED]

6. Discussion on these two issues was restricted as described above. [REDACTED] briefed on the Jesuit case, pointing out positive aspects of the investigation and prosecution of the case. [REDACTED] also indicated that contradictory testimony by Salvadoran military personnel, the disappearance of evidence, and the reluctance of senior officers to volunteer information bolsters suspicions that the decision to kill the priests was made at a high level. [REDACTED] pointed out that the armed forces have made no attempt to launch a serious internal investigation of the incident. [REDACTED]

7. After prior consultations with the chief and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], I briefed on several [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] reports. They include specific allegations of assassinations and abuses by Salvadoran military officers. I indicated that [REDACTED] analysts who have seen the reports generally find them credible. I also emphasized that the reports are unconfirmed, and that the two most relevant [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] are from the same source and sub-source. Sullivan indicated that he would like to be able to convey the core of information about these reported abuses to Salvadoran

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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President Cristiani and Defense Minister Ponce. He will consult with the [REDACTED] Division. Sullivan did not request any additional intelligence support with respect to these issues.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]